REVIEWS OF BOOKS

HISTORY

ROUGEMONT (G.) *Ed.* **Inscriptions grecques d'Iran et d'Asie centrale (Corpus inscriptionum Iranicarum. Part II, Inscriptions of the Seleucid and Parthian Periods and of Eastern Iran and Central Asia. 1, Inscriptions in Non-Iranian Languages I)**. London: School of Oriental and African Studies, 2012. Pp. 326, illus. £67. 9780728-603974.

Rougemont's new volume in the series *Corpus Inscriptionum Iranicarum* covers Greek inscriptions from Susa, Persis, Media, Parthia-Hyrcania, Drangiana, Arachosia, Gandhara, Bactria and Sogdiana. It includes a total of 161 items (including addenda), with Greek text, French translation and notes. There are 82 plates, with photographs and drawings of inscriptions and maps. It is comprehensive in its coverage, and 'inscription' is understood in a broad sense, to include writings on ceramics, papyrus and parchment as well as on stone.

Two other volumes of Greek inscriptions from the Greek 'further east' have appeared in recent years. These are R. Merkelbach and J. Stauber's 'epigraphisches Lesebuch' *Jenseits des Euphrat: Griechische Inschriften* (Munich and Leipzig 2005) and F. Canali de Rossi's *Iscrizioni delle Estremo Oriente Greco*, published in the series Inschriften griechische Städte aus Kleinasien, Band 65 (Bonn 2004). The geographical scope of the works is roughly similar, although Rougemont defines his remit as only part of the 'Extrême Orient grec', in that he omits coverage of Mesopotamia, the Persian Gulf and Armenia. Canali de Rossi's work is much more inclusive that the others – which may, depending upon one's perspective, be a good or bad thing. It includes texts in the Bactrian language (which is written in the Greek script), coin legends and other epigraphic and literary texts of relevance to the regions covered. Merkelbach and Stauber's *Lesebuch* is more selective in its coverage, but presents an excellent sampler of Greek inscriptions from the region from Mesopotamia to Bactria, with German translation, historical and textual notes. The great advantage of Rougemont's compendium is, of course, the fact that it is more up-to-date, and it includes a number of inscriptions which have been published since 2004/2005 or are published here for the first time.

Of particular interest are two 'new' funerary inscriptions from Ai Khanoum (nos 136–37), which were discovered during excavations at the site, but have until now never been published. Both are fragmentary and contain no personal or place names, but do include intriguing references to the monuments themselves (*mneme/mnemeion*), to 'kings' (plural) and to *daimones*. The addenda to the volume include other recently-published texts. The most interesting of these is a royal letter, probably from Drangiana, in which Seleukos (not I, since he refers to actions of his grandfather, apparently as king, but possibly II) writes to one Herophantos, probably a local satrap or other official. The text is fragmentary, but appears to record thanks for services rendered (no. 80 bis). Like the Drangiana letter, two further, shorter texts in the addenda are in private collections and emerged relatively recently from the antiquities market (nos 88 bis, 88 ter). These are brief dedications on silver vessels, by meridarchs named Kalliphon and Phoitokles, testimony to the use of this administrative title in the region. Their provenance is northwestern Pakistan.

The *apparatus criticus*, bibliography and commentary for each inscription are concise but useful. For some inscriptions, a lengthier discussion is given, such as that on no. 84, the inscription of Sophytos from Kandahar. The volume includes concordances to both Merkelbach and Stauber and Canali de Rossi. The indices list topics, personal and geographical names and key Greek words. For its currency and comprehensiveness, this is set to become the standard work on Greek inscriptions from the further east – at least until new discoveries require it to be updated.

RACHEL MAIRS
University of Reading
r.mairs@reading.ac.uk